## Message Text

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**ACTION SS-25** 

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5899

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**EXDIS** 

FOR NEA/AFN - WILEY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR MILI MO

SUBJ: KING'S CONCERN OVER REPORTED INCIDENTS AT NAVTRACOM KENITRA

- 1. ON JULY 2 KING SENT HIS MILITARY AIDE, LT. COL. BOUBKER SKIREDJ, TO SEE ME ON URGENT BASIS. I AM CURRENTLY LOOKING INTO MATTER HE RAISED; BELIEVE THAT NO ACTION REQUIRED AT MOMENT BY DEPARTMENT.
- 2. SKIREDJ TOLD ME THAT KING WAS AGITATED OVER A SERIES OF REPORTED INCIDENTS AT NAVTRACOM WHICH APPEARED TO REFLECT LACK OF SENSITIVITY REGARDING MOROCCAN HOSTS. SKIREDJ, READING FROM NOTES HE HAD TAKEN IN A MEETING WITH KING, SAID THERE WERE THREE PRINCIPAL COMPLAINTS: (A) FLYING OF MOROCCAN FLAG HAD NOT BEEN PERMITTED AT KENITRA (HE DID NOT CITE ANY SPECIFIC OCCASION).

  (B) NAME OF "ROYAL MOROCCAN GOLF COURSE" HAD BEEN CHANGED TO "U.S. NAVY GOLF COURSE" AND ORIGINAL SIGN TAKEN DOWN. (C) MOROCCAN EMPLOYEES HAD NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO COLLECT FUNDS FOR USE IN CELEBRATION OF MARCH 3 THRONE DAY. SKIREDJ SAID THERE HAD BEEN IN ADDITION A WHOLE SERIES OF MICRO INCIDENTS WHICH SEEMED TO REFLECT DISREGARD FOR MOROCCAN SENSITIVITIES. HE CITED SPECIFICALLY LETTER FROM CAPTAIN PARRIS (NAVTRACOM COMMANDER) DISMISSING GOLF PRO, WHO, SKIREDJ SAID, HAD BEEN HAND-PICKED BY KING TO RUN KENITRA GOLF COURSE.

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- 3. I ASKED SKIREDJ TO INFORM KING I WOULD IMMEDIATELY LOOK INTO MATTER AND TAKE ACTION TO SET THINGS STRAIGHT. I NOTED THAT COMPLETE AND EQUITABLE ASSESSMENT WOULD, OF COURSE, REQUIRE ADEQUATE TIME AND REQUESTED MOROCCAN PATIENCE. SKIREDJ INDICATED UNDERSTANDING. I ALSO EXPRESSED REGRET THAT KING HAD HAD TO TAKE PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS MATTER, AS WELL AS APPRECIATION FOR FRIENDLY AND CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER IN WHICH MATTER HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION, IN PREFERENCE TO CONVEYING IT THROUGH MORE FORMAL CHANNELS.
- 4. RECENT FIRING OF GOLF PRO EVIDENTLY LED TO AIRING OF ABOVE-MENTIONED COMPLAINTS. KING'S CONCERN OF COURSE REQUIRES TIMELY RESPONSIVENESS ON OUR PART. I THEREFORE WITHOUT DELAY REQUESTED MY DEFENSE ATTACHE TO UNDERTAKE IMMEDIATE INFORMAL ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION, WHICH IS STILL UNDERWAY. BALANCED CONCLUSIONS WILL REQUIRE BOTH CLARIFICATION OF FACTS AND WEIGHING OF DELICATE POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS, ON BASIS OF WHICH I WILL SOON BE MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS.

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